

pay raise and authorizing a force increase of 40,000 people.

I am particularly pleased that the conference agreement includes language prohibiting the military from requiring or strongly encouraging U.S. servicewomen in Saudi Arabia to wear the abaya—a long black garment required for women under Islamic law. I have been working with the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HOSTETTLER, and the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Mrs. WILSON, to remove this unnecessary and degrading mandate. The Defense Authorization conference report ends this double standard and guarantees that our servicewomen are not treated as second-class citizens.

Additionally, the legislation breaks new ground by establishing a concurrent receipt program. For too long, our disabled military retirees have witnessed their military retirement pay reduced by the amount they receive in disability compensation. I have fought against this injustice since arriving in Congress and am pleased that this legislation will provide greater assistance to many of those who have made sacrifices for our nation.

The National Defense Authorization Act is a great achievement and an appropriate recognition of Chairman BOB STUMP's dedicated leadership. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve with Chairman STUMP on the House Armed Services Committee and commend him for his deft handling of the complex matters arising from the international war on terrorism. Together with Ranking Member IKE SKELTON, Chairman STUMP helped foster a collegial and thoughtful atmosphere in the committee, thus ensuring that Congress's approach to the war on terrorism was bipartisan and well considered. I wish him well in the future and thank him again for his leadership.

As the House prepares to recess for the year, I am disappointed that we were not able to claim greater progress on appropriations bills and other important legislation. Nevertheless, passage of the Defense Authorization Act, coupled with the final agreement reached on the Department of Homeland Security, demonstrates Congress's commitment to ensuring the safety of the American people, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished in these fields.

#### CONCURRENT RECEIPT

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the waning days of the 107 Congress, action has finally been taken on the issue of concurrent receipt for America's military retirees. The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003 Conference Report that has come before this body does include language to provide concurrent receipt for some of our military retirees. Unfortunately, it falls far short of the proposal I supported in the House Budget Committee, and which passed this body by a vote of 221 to 209.

On March 20 of this year the House Budget Committee, of which I am a Member, took the initiative to include funding for concurrent receipt in its budget for FY 2003. This budget, H. Con. Res. 353, A Wartime Budget to Se-

cure America's Future, was endorsed by the Administration, and included over a half a billion dollars for partial repeal of the dollar-for-dollar offset of military retired pay and VA disability compensation. Specifically, H. Con. Res. 353 earmarked over \$500 million as a first step in FY 2003, with increasing amounts over the next five years, providing a cumulative total of \$5.8 billion to fund concurrent receipt for America's most severely disabled military retirees.

Just over one month ago, on October 10, 2002, the House reiterated its dedication to righting this long-standing injustice. We passed, by a vote of 391-0, instructions to the conferees to retain the concurrent receipt language during their negotiations with the Senate. Unfortunately, that was not enough to bring the conference to closure and give our military retirees what they deserve.

I would like to thank Rep. MIKE BILIRAKIS for his vigorous work on this issue. And I would like to thank the 402 members of this House, who in addition to myself, cosponsored his bill, H.R. 303 to provide full concurrent receipt for our veterans. Over 400 Members were committed to ending this unfair penalization of our military retirees who were disabled during their military service.

I am disappointed that despite strong support for this initiative, and budget neutral funding for the program, the conferees were unable to keep the promise made to our military retirees. I will continue to work for just treatment for all disabled military retirees and I will continue to support legislation that will provide full funding of concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees.

I have the highest respect for our departing friend Chairman BOB STUMP, and it is because of my great admiration for him, that I will vote to send this legislation to the President.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SCHILTGEN, DIRECTOR OF INS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Thomas J. Schiltgen, who has performed a near-miracle in the past three years as District Director for the Los Angeles District of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Coming into the busiest—and most troubled—office in our immigration system, Mr. Schiltgen turned the Los Angeles District into one of the most efficient in the nation.

Thomas Schiltgen joined the INS out of college in 1975 as a Criminal Investigator in Chicago. He moved up through the ranks, and served in a wide range of positions that included Deputy Director in the agency's Bangkok office. Before taking over the Los Angeles office, he served for four years as Director of the INS San Francisco District.

When he was assigned to take over the Los Angeles District, the office was known throughout the country for crowds lining up every day in a desperate attempt to work through the immigration process. The office averaged 24 months to process routine citizenship and legal immigration cases. More than 400,000 cases awaited resolution.

Winning the respect of his own staff and the immigration support community, Mr. Schiltgen has managed to virtually eliminate the backlog and has reduced the waiting time to as little as six months for most naturalization and adjustment of status cases. The efficiency of the office was shown dramatically this year when nearly 5,000 applications were handled in a single day at the end of a family reunification program.

Mr. Speaker, although the Los Angeles District serves all of Southern California, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. Schiltgen on behalf of the Inland Empire. Under his leadership, the INS has opened a wonderful new office in San Bernardino, and provided a much wider range of services closer to home for thousands of immigrants who live and work in my district. The new INS office is an asset to the downtown of my home town, and provides a warm and professional face for the federal government in the city.

Mr. Schiltgen has also opened an expanded service center in Orange County, and has helped redesign the main INS facility in Los Angeles to provide heightened privacy, convenience and service for those who have come to our nation seeking the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, after 27 years with the INS, Thomas Schiltgen has decided to retire and pursue opportunities in the private sector. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for providing such high-quality public service, and wish him and his wife Brenda well in their future endeavors.

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA FOR ITS FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very serious issue—the failure of North Korea to comply with a number of non-proliferation treaties, agreements, and resolutions, and the absence of any well-defined U.S. policy with that country.

The history of nuclear weapons proliferation in North Korea is a lengthy one, going back over a decade and a half when North Korea signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty. When it signed that treaty in 1985, North Korea agreed not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, and also agreed that the International Atomic Energy Agency could conduct inspections to verify fulfillment of those obligations.

When that Agency discovered anomalies in North Korea's nuclear facilities in 1993, inspectors were no longer allowed into the country.

Seeking to end the stalemate, the U.S. and North Korea signed the Agreed Framework in October, 1994. Under the terms of the Agreed Framework, the U.S. created an international consortium, which would provide North Korea with alternative sources of energy in the form of heavy fuel oil and a modern nuclear power plant. In return, North Korea pledged to freeze its existing nuclear program and allow inspectors back into the country.

Shortly after the Framework was signed, the consortium, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, was created. Despite